

## **“A Quick and Friendlier Method to Release Sub-legal Atlantic Cod in the Demersal Longline Fishery”**

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### **Abstract**

This movie/video with a running time approximately 12 minutes, details how a typical demersal longline fishing vessel for Chatham, Massachusetts sets and hauls the gear. In the process of hauling the gear sub-legal fish including cod *Gadus morhua* are caught along with market sized fish. In the past, sub-legal fish were “snubbed” off the hook, which means the hook was pulled by the hauling gear while the fish was blocked. “Snubbing” fish resulted in severe trauma to the mouth region of the fish (usually a broken jaw). Wounding of a sub-legal fish probably has negative affects on survival after such an injury. One fisherman developed and used a technique, which minimizes the damage to sub-legal fish. His idea was to release the fish without causing much injury to the fish and still continue to haul the gear quickly. There are several scenes depicting the release method developed and used by this fisherman. Also, some scenes have been slowed down in order to teach others how to utilize this technique. Some fish were netted to see if there was any visible damage on the fish after this method was applied. This project was funded by SK-Grant NA06FD0177 and is catalogued as number 02MADMF765 in the DMF Video Library.